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AUSTRIA TO JOIN EUROPEAN COUNCIL. The Austrian Federal Government recently approved a motion, as submitted by Foreign Minister Leopold Figl, to the effect that it considers the time has come for Austria to become a member of the Council of Europe. The Government takes the view that Austria's Neutrality Statute in no way prevents the country from joining an international, non-military organization of nations, such as the Council of Europe, the First Paragraph of whose statutes expressly states that military matters do not fall within its competence.

The Vienna "Arbeiterzeitung" reports in this connection that Austria's application for membership will be submitted early enough for it to be handled by the Ministerial Committee at its next meeting and that Austria will probably be represented as a full-fledged member at the next meeting of the Council, in April 1956. Austria's membership in the Council will intensify the determination of the country to cooperate closely with the free and democratic nations of Europe. It will also put an end to the misinterpretations which were placed upon the Austrian declaration of neutrality and at the same time confirm the fact that military neutrality and close collaboration with free and democratic nations is perfectly compatible. "Die Presse" reports that, once she is admitted, Austria is planning to send between 3 and 10 members of Parliament to Strasbourg as delegates to the Council.

SCHAERF COMMENTS ON AUSTRIAN PLAN TO JOIN COUNCIL OF EUROPE. Vice-Chancellor Adolf Schaerf declared in a recent radio address that Austria's decision to apply for membership to the Council of Europe marks the start of a new chapter in the country's history. He said that as early as 1947, achievement of a purely military neutrality was put forward by his party as one of the immediate goals of the Austrian policy, although at the same time great importance was attributed to economic and cultural collaboration with the free democratic world. Herr Schaerf declared that the Marshall Aid Plan of the United States had given the Austrians a genuine demonstration of the value of unity with the West. The Vice-Chancellor spoke in favor of purely military neutrality but maintained that there is no obligation on the part of the press, the economy or of cultural organizations to maintain a neutral or neutralistic attitude. He stated that, over and above the military obligations arising out of neutrality, the Austrians feel completely free to engage in international cooperation in all fields of non-

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PARLIAMENT DISSOLVED EARLY: NEW ELECTIONS ON MAY 13, 1956. In accordance with a proposal of the two Government parties (Austrian People's party and Socialist party), the Lower House of Parliament decided, in its session of March 1, 1956, that Parliament should be dissolved early and that new elections should be held on May 13, 1956. This decision was preceded by intensive negotiations between the two coalition parties, which were broken off on February 28 as yielding no results. The interparty talks referred primarily to current economic questions, especially the future of the Austrian petroleum industry and the other enterprises bought back from the Soviets under the terms of the State Treaty. Another question under discussion was the possibility of an increase in the price of milk.

At the same session, the Lower House approved the Government's proposal concerning Austria's entry into the Council of Europe.

DR. FRANZ MATSCH IS AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR TO UN.

Dr. Franz Matsch, former head of the International Organizations Division of the Foreign Office in Vienna, has arrived in New York where, as an Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, he has taken charge of the Austrian Mission to the United Nations. Dr. Kurt Waldheim, who until now has headed this mission as a Charge d'Affaires, will become an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, in charge of the Austrian Legation in Ottawa. Legation Councillor Walther Peinsipp, until now Charge d'Affaires in Ottawa, will head the Austrian Legation in Budapest, with the rank of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary.

NEUTRAL AUSTRIA AND HER NEW ARMY. Development of the new Austrian Federal Army is in full swing. Its first lieutenants and warrant officers were commissioned and sworn in at an imposing ceremony in Vienna recently. A few weeks earlier, "Officers of the Higher Service" — which is the official designation of the General Staff — and a number of high staff officers were given their appointments and preparations for calling up the first class of recruits are well along.

The original draft of the Austrian State Treaty, which from 1947 to 1955 had served as the basis for the lengthy treaty negotiations, had provided for very wide restrictions in the military sphere. These provisions were dropped at the Vienna Conference of Ambassadors in May 1955, which was immediately followed by the signing of the State Treaty by the Foreign Ministers. All that remained of the restrictions was a ban on weapons with a range of more than 30 kilometers

and on atomic and guided missiles. Further limitations in military matters would have been incompatible with the permanent neutrality to which Austria has pledged herself. By its very nature, this neutrality can only be an armed neutrality.

Before organizing the Austrian Federal Army, members of the Parliamentary Army Committee visited Switzerland and Sweden to study military establishments there. It must be kept in mind that there are significant differences between the three neutral countries of Switzerland, Sweden and Austria. Above all, Austria has to organize her federal army from scratch, whereas Switzerland and Sweden have experienced no interruption in their defense systems for a long time. Moreover, Austria's geographical position and the nature of her terrain also play an important part.

As is the case in other countries, the establishment of an army and the creation of defense organizations give rise to psychological problems. The total liquidation of the German army on Austrian soil, the ban on uniforms and the removal or destruction of all arms and military equipment, as carried out by the Allies, encountered no opposition in Austria. The German army was felt to be a foreign organization and total disarmament seemed to be a necessary and inevitable measure.

At first, the establishment of the new Federal Army met with less general understanding. Along with the repugnance by part of the younger generation against everything military — an attitude going back to the days of the collapse of Adolf Hitler's powerful war machine — there was a slogan to the effect that "Little Austria is not capable by herself of offering an effective defense against attacks upon her borders." The Austrian Communist Party carried on vigorous propaganda against setting up the army, even though the Soviet Government had declared in the Moscow Memorandum that it took cognizance of the fact that Austria's neutrality "will be handled like that of Switzerland," i.e. that it will be an armed neutrality.

However, the laws relative to the organization of the Federal Army passed both Houses of Parliament without any difficulty. The recent air incidents on the Hungarian and Czechoslovak borders have helped convince the Austrian people that neutrality requires military protection.

STABLE INTERNAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT SINCE 1945. The internal development of Austria after World War II, was characterized by a stability which was unique in post-war Europe. General elections to the Austrian Parliament were held in November 1945, October 1949 and February 1953. In the year 1945, the Occupying Powers allowed candidates to stand only for the People's Party (moderate Conservatives), the Socialist Party and the Communist Party. In 1949, ten parties took part, of which the most important new party was the "Verband der Unabhngigen" — "Association of Independents" (Rightwing). In 1953, there were 11 parties.

On May 27, 1951, following the death of the Federal President, Dr. Karl Renner (1870–1950), the Socialist Burgomaster of Vienna Dr. Theodor Koerner (General, retired) was directly elected by the people in two successive ballots for a six-year term of office as Federal President.

The following table gives a summary of the results of the three parliamentary elections and the two ballots for the election of the Federal President. It demonstrates the extraordinary political stability of Austria after her liberation. Some four-fifths of the total number of votes cast were regularly given to the two great Parties — People's Party and Socialists. Apart from a brief period consequent on the liberation of Vienna by the Soviet forces and on the world political situation of the first post-war period, these two parties alone formed a coalition Government and ruled the country. The Communist Party, which never secured more than five per cent of the votes, left the Coalition in 1947.

A further indication of the political stability of Austria is the fact that the majority of the leading personalities who took over the leadership of the country at the moment of the collapse of National Socialism have remained for many years in the Government. For example, Dr. Figl was Federal Chancellor from December 1945 until April 1953, and returned to the Government as Foreign Minister in November 1953. On April 2, 1953, Ing. Julius Raab became Federal Chancellor. A number of Ministers accepted portfolios in his Cabinet which they had held continuously since 1945 in the Government headed by Dr. Figl — for example, the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Adolf Schaerf, the Minister of the Interior, Oscar Helmer, the Minister of Social Welfare, Karl Maisel and the Under-Secretary-of-State in the Ministry of the Interior, Ferdinand Graf.

Elections	People's Party (Conservative)			Socialist Party			Association of Independents			Communists			Splinter Groups (No Mandate)	
	Votes	Percent- age	Mand- ates	Votes	Percent- age	Mand- ates	Votes	Percent- age	Mand- ates	Votes	Percent- age	Mand- ates	Votes	Percent- age
1945 — Parliament	1,602,227	49.8	85	1,434,898	44.6	76	—	—	—	174,257	5.4	4	5,972	0.2
1949 — Parliament	1,846,581	44.02	77	1,623,524	38.71	67	489,273	11.67	16	213,066	5.08	5	21,289	0.51
1951 — Presidency 1st Ballot	1,725,451			1,682,881			662,501			219,969			7,545	
2nd Ballot	2,006,322			2,178,631			—			—			—	
1953 — Parliament	1,781,777	41.25	74	1,818,517	42.1	73	472,866	10.95	14	228,159	5.25	4	17,369	0.45

Council of Europe

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military character. Vice-Chancellor Schaerf also maintained that Austria, by joining the Council of Europe, was detaching

herself from her historical ties with the countries of the Danube Basin and becoming incorporated in the community of the Free West. Dr. Schaerf described this decision as an extremely momentous step.

DELIVERIES TO SOVIETS ON SCHEDULE. Although the first year of deliveries to the Soviet Union as part of the program of buying back the so-called "German assets" does not end until July 1956, 21.5 million dollars' worth of orders — of the annual instalment of 25 million which is provided for — were already placed by the end of January 1956. Negotiations are now being carried on with the Soviet trade mission in Vienna on the remaining 3.5 million dollars' worth of Austrian goods yet to be ordered. It is expected that these negotiations and, with them, the deliveries under the first annual quota will be completed by the end of March 1956. Immediately thereafter, it is expected that negotiations will be initiated relative to drawing up lists of goods for the second delivery year, running from July 1956 to July 1957.

EUROPEAN-AMERICAN SOCIETY TO MEET IN VIENNA.

According to a report in the Vienna newspaper "Die Presse," Vienna is to be the scene of the European-American Society's annual congress. The meeting, which will run from May 4-8, 1956, will be held under the chairmanship of Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands. The working sessions will meet in the Auersperg Palace. Among other things, the consultations of the congress will center around the adoption of a "Vienna Declaration," the basic theme of which was proposed by former French Foreign Minister Bidault during the Society's last congress, which was held in Rome in 1955. This declaration will emphasize the common origin of the Western civilization and call on the Western world to do everything possible to maintain this common heritage. The drafting of the "Vienna Declaration" will be in the hands of an editorial committee whose members will include Friedrich Heer, University Lecturer (Austria), Herbert Agar (U.S.), Bishop Dibelius (German Federal Republic), Andre Maurois (France), Thornton Wilder (U.S.), Reinhold Niebuhr (U.S.), Graham Spry (Canada) and Barbara Wood (Great Britain). More than 100 outstanding personalities from the United States and Europe are expected to attend the congress.

NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NATIONAL BANK APPOINTED.

The General Council of the Austrian National Bank has appointed Dr. Franz Stoeger-Marenbach Director General of the Bank. Dr. Stoeger-Marenbach has been a member of the National Bank since 1920 and a member of the Board of Directors since 1947.

WORLD CONFERENCE ON TOURISM TO BE HELD IN VIENNA.

Michael Touma, Director of Tourism in Lebanon and President of the UIOOT (International Union of Official Tourist Organizations), has arrived in Vienna to hold preparatory discussions with Dr. Paul Bernecker, Director of Austrian Tourism Promotion, on the general meeting of the UIOOT which is to be held in Vienna in the fall of 1956.

HIGH QUOTATIONS ON AUSTRIAN BONDS. According to the monthly report of the Swiss National Bank, the eight Austrian bonds which are officially traded in Switzerland are currently being quoted at 108.54% of their issue value. This means that the Austrian bond quotations are higher than for any other foreign bonds officially traded in that country.

NEGOTIATIONS ON AUSTRIAN ASSETS ABROAD.

One of the results of World War Two for Austria was the confiscation or blocking of Austrian assets abroad. In nearly all parts of Europe and in overseas countries, Austrian assets were either seized or blocked. Efforts to recover this property have been and are being made by negotiations with the individual countries involved. These talks are concerned with blocking and confiscatory actions by which the states in question took over as their own property Austrian assets which were located there. The negotiations are sometimes difficult because some of the holdings in question have in the meantime been sold and can therefore no longer be given back to the Austrian owners in natura but only in the form of proceeds from the sale. The matter is less complicated in the case of blocked assets inasmuch as no change in ownership took place but merely a stoppage of their availability to the Austrian owners concerned. In these cases, restitution can be effected immediately after release.

Negotiations relative to the release and unblocking of Austrian assets have been concluded with nearly all of the Western countries, including England, France and the United States. Extensive Austrian holdings, in the amount of 30-40 million dollars, were held in the U.S. Approximately 95% of these have now been released. Certain problems in the negotiations with the Netherlands and also with Belgium have yet to be solved. The principal consideration, in this connection, is the unreveling of various questions of ownership, e.g. determination in the case of corporations of whether Austrian or German property claims are involved.

The Austrian State Treaty provides an opportunity for returning to Austrian owners that Austrian property which is located in the signatory countries. These countries have undertaken to turn back this Austrian property. The same obligation is being assumed by those countries which have acceded to the State Treaty, e.g. Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia.

Negotiations on assets with the Eastern countries have not yet been concluded and in many cases, have not even been started. The first country with which Austria held talks on this subject was Hungary. In mid-January consultations were initiated by a mixed commission. It is expected that a considerable amount of time will be required for clarifying all of the questions being considered.

In the discussions on this matter with Austria's northern and eastern neighbors, there is in many instances an additional difficulty represented by the fact that there is a difference of opinion in the definition of those Austrians who are entitled to register claims. It is the Austrian view that all Austrian citizens are entitled to claim their assets which are located outside the country, including those Austrians who did not acquire their Austrian citizenship until after 1945. Austria's northern and eastern neighbors, on the other hand, take the stand that their former citizens, who were expelled and emigrated to Austria as a result of developments at the end of the last war, have no claim to property in their former homelands. In the view of these nations, the deadline with respect to nationality is the date

on which the assets were confiscated, not the date on which claim was laid to these assets through the Austrian Government. Austria, on the other hand, does not differentiate between old and new Austrians.

Austria also has claims on assets located in Germany. Although Austria, under the terms of the State Treaty, waived her asset claims against Germany, this waiver applies only to claims which are formally directed against the German Reich and its legal successors and to claims which arose in connection with activities of the National Socialist state. The waiver does not apply to civil law assets or to commercial transactions which have nothing to do with the occupation of Austria by the German Reich. For instance, Austrians have claims to insurance from German insurance organizations. Various labor relationships have given rise to claims to social welfare payments and pensions. Moreover, certain German credit institutions still hold the savings deposits of Austrian citizens. Other groups having claims to make are contributors to building funds and resettled persons.

Aside from the importance which a positive settlement of all asset claims has for many thousands of Austrians, the solution of these problems is also in the interest of reestablishing normal relations between nations. Austria considers that such a development would be a contribution of inestimable importance toward ensuring correct and friendly relations with all nations and one which is in line with her foreign policy.

AUSTRIAN DANUBE SHIPS TO SAIL TO BLACK SEA.

The Soviet Union and Austria recently concluded a new agreement regulating the Danube river navigation of both countries. The agreement is the first to be reached between the two countries on the basis of a proportional division of the river traffic. The Soviet Union was the only remaining state with which Austria had not yet concluded a treaty on Danube shipping. The new arrangement is significant because Austrian ships will now be allowed to travel as far as the Black Sea. This is the first time that the Soviet Union is agreeing to a proportional division of passengers and freight between the Soviet Navigation Company and Austria's Danube Steamship Line. Now that this agreement has been signed, the Danube Steamship Line will be able to operate at full capacity.

DAILY NEW YORK-VIENNA FLIGHTS SCHEDULED. This year's conference of the European Sales Directors of the Pan American Airways (P.A.A.) took place recently on the Semmering, near Vienna. It was announced at this meeting that the direct New York-Vienna and Vienna-New York flights, now scheduled four times a week, will become daily flights as of July 1, 1956. The conference also provided an occasion for showing "Wings to Austria," a new technicolor film produced by Pan Am. Described as one of the best promotional films ever to be produced about Austria, the new picture is extremely successful publicity for Austria to the international air tourist market.

DIRECT TELETYPE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN AUSTRIA AND U.S.

Teletype communication between Austria and the United States was initiated on March 3, 1956. The texts are transmitted to the U.S. by means of teletype impulse through a special radio transmitter in the vicinity of Deutsch-Altenburg (Lower Austria). As a result of this development, the Austrian teletype network, which has been greatly extended of late, is now connected directly with the American teletype network.

AUSTRIAN ICA FREIGHT CAR SHIPMENT TO INDIA.

U.S. Ambassador Llewellyn E. Thompson recently visited the Simmering-Graz-Pauker Works in Vienna to look into the progress being made on a large-scale order which this plant is carrying out for India. The order in question refers to the delivery to India of 1,000 railroad freight cars as part of the U.S. program of economic aid to India. 670 cars of this order, which was placed by the ICA in Washington, have already been completed.

RAPID PROGRESS IN EXTENSION OF AUSTRIAN EXPRESSWAY.

Construction work on the East-West auto highway between Salzburg and Vienna (with connecting link from Salzburg to Munich) is proceeding according to schedule. Among the most important individual projects forming part of this highway program are the two huge viaducts at Soellheim and Zilling in the province of Salzburg, representing two of the most extensive bridges in the province. The Soellheim viaduct, which is 1,135 ft. long and 138 ft. high is probably the highest bridge along the Austrian expressway. The Zilling viaduct is only 85 ft. above the valley, but has a total length of 1,249 ft. The two bridge projects will require approximately 2,470,000 cubic ft. of concrete masonry and 634,000 cubic ft. of facing. In addition to the work on these two major projects, 14 other bridges have been completed in the Salzburg sector of the highway alone.

AUSTRIAN MINE PRODUCTION IN 1955. The following figures are now available on Austrian mining production during 1955:

Iron ore	2,838,450 tons
Lead-zinc-molybdenum ores	176,519 tons
Copper ore	158,639 tons
Antimony ore	10,978 tons
Bauxite	19,138 tons
Gypsum	329,656 tons
Anhydrite	82,361 tons
Graphite	17,814 tons
Magnesite	991,709 tons
Talc and talc schist	70,524 tons
Kaolin	260,316 tons
Clay	77,866 tons
Sand	48,865 tons
Rock salt	810 tons
Petroleum	3,666,112 tons
Brine	908,140 cubic meters
Natural gas	766,174,100 cubic meters

"MOTORIZED MULE" PLOWS FALLOW LAND. With the cooperation of the Ministry for Agriculture and Forests, fallow land is now being made arable again. As a first, partial measure, the so-called "Zikboeden" areas on Lake Neusiedl are being worked. The places in question are areas of salt deposits which render the soil unsuitable for all plant growth to a depth of as much as 16 inches. The farm equipment used hitherto has proved unsatisfactory for ploughing the land to such a depth. Only since the introduction of the "Saurer M 100 Motor Mule," with its ability to penetrate to a depth of 33 inches, has it been possible to work the ground successfully. Because of its tremendous traction, this motorized mule can draw a furrow 1,100 yards long and 33 inches deep at a speed of $4\frac{1}{2}$ m.p.h.

GREAT PROGRESS IN MECHANIZATION OF AGRICULTURE.

The precipitous rate at which Austrian agriculture is being mechanized continues without interruption. Farmers are showing particular interest in tractors and harvesting machinery since these allow for extensive savings in labor. The Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry has prepared an estimate of the most important types of farm machinery now in use. These figures show, in particular, a marked increase in the number of tractors, motorized reapers and harvesters. The new figures are compared below with those of machinery totals in 1939 and 1951:

	1939	1951	Beginning 1956
Tractors	1,641	21,201	53,000
Electric motors	82,020	226,263	285,000
Diesel motors	1,706	8,030	10,000
Motorized reapers	301	13,973	38,000
Binders	1,161	13,307	15,000
Harvesters	—	385	3,000

RECORD PRODUCTION IN NITROGEN WORKS. In 1955, production at the Austrian Nitrogen Works amounted to 570,000 tons of nitrogenous fertilizer and during the present year this figure will exceed the 600,000-ton mark. During the past three years, the plant's production has increased 57%. Sales in 1955 amounted to 561,000 tons. Domestic sales remained at the level of the previous year, while the plant's output was exported to 26 different countries, Europe buying 48.9%, Africa 34.5%, Asia 13.5% and America 3.1%. Sulphuric acid production, which was in full swing at the beginning of 1955, amounted to 37,500 tons.

VIENNESE LIFE SPAN DOUBLED IN PAST 100 YEARS.

Statistics on health recently published by the city of Vienna show that, on the average, the Viennese live twice as long as they did 100 years ago. In 1860, the average life expectation in men was approximately 30 years and in women about 33. Today, the figure for men is 62 and for women nearly 68. During the same period, such infectious diseases as cholera and smallpox have disappeared completely. With respect to the individual causes of death, the then widespread tuberculosis has been replaced by heart and vascular diseases as well as by cancer. One hundred years ago, there was 1 physician to every 720 inhabitants; now there is 1 for every 380. At the present time, with a population of 1,700,000, Vienna has nearly 25,000 hospital beds at its disposal.

TRADE UNION FEDERATION HAS 1,398,446 MEMBERS.

According to a recent announcement by the Austrian Trade Union Federation, the organization's membership now numbers 1,398,446. (Austria has a total population of 7 million — Ed.). This membership figure represents an increase of 50,000 over last year. Approximately 75% of the members are men and 25% women. The largest unions are those of the metal and mining workers (244,000 members), the construction and lumber workers (186,000) and the employees of private industry (180,000).

POWER CONSUMPTION GREATER THAN INCREASED PRODUCTION.

Since the end of World War Two, approximately 230 million dollars have been expended on power plant construction in Austria. Of this amount, 106 million dollars came from U.S. Marshall aid, 54 million were raised by the two Austrian Power Loans in Austria, 41 million were made available by public Austrian funds and the remainder was obtained from miscellaneous minor sources and through special financing. More than half of the total sum involved is invested in projects which are not yet producing electricity. As a result of investments during the past 10 years, the annual capacity of the power plants has been increased from 1,600 to 3,600 KWH. In the matter of power consumption, the last two years have registered a uniform increase of 12.5% in the consumption of electric current. As against this, however, the increase in power production during 1955 amounted to only 9.3%, with the result that there were shortages of power which had to be made up both by imports of power and reductions in its export.

ALARMING INCREASE IN TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS. In 1955, the number of traffic accidents in Austria was 61,878, as against 46,834 in 1954, i.e. an increase of more than 32%. Whereas in 1954, 39,898 persons were injured in such accidents (1,148 fatally), the figure for 1955 was 51,091 (1,185 fatalities).

BIG COIN COLLECTION TO BE AUCTIONED IN VIENNA.

The Vienna Dorotheum was recently the scene of the initial auctions of a private collection of coins which is the largest in Europe and probably in the world. Although the total number of coins from the collection which are to be auctioned is not yet known, over 220,000 have been registered for sale. The collection represents the life work of Karl Hollschek, an Austrian who has been collecting coins since the age of 11 and who has devoted his life to this hobby. In the first section of the auction, entitled "Austria in Nummis" (Austria in Coins), approximately 1,600 coins were put up for bids. These pieces gave a complete survey of coinage in Austria from the time of Emperor Maximilian I to that of Leopold I. Particularly interesting examples, among many others, in this part of the collection were emergency mintings from the period of the first siege of Vienna by the Turks (1529), a "Wedding Taler" in honor of the marriage of Maximilian I and Maria of Burgundy (1479) and one of the earliest counterfeit coins, a spurious groschen piece from 1511.

In connection with the auctioning of the Hollschek collection, the Austrian Numismatic Society is organizing an educational exhibit designed to show how a coin collection can be successfully assembled today.

CULTURE AND SCIENCE

VIENNA PHILHARMONIC TO TOUR U.S. The internationally-famous Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra will make its first American tour this fall. Its management has signed Andre Cluytens and Carl Schuricht as conductors for the series. The Vienna Philharmonic was founded 114 years ago and has enjoyed the personal direction and musical genius of Brahms, Bruckner, Mahler, Richard Strauss and Wagner. Among the many conductors who have been associated with the orchestra in more recent years are Karl Boehm, Wilhelm Furtwaengler, Erich Kleiber, Arthur Nikisch, Arturo Toscanini and Bruno Walter.

For *Andre Cluytens*, one of Europe's foremost conductors, this will be a first visit to the United States. Mr. Cluytens is music director of the Paris Opera and conductor of the Paris Conservatory Orchestra. *Carl Schuricht*, who has directed symphony orchestras, operas and oratorios in every major music center on the Continent, is also making his American debut. He has conducted the leading Music Festivals of Europe, including the Salzburg, Holland and Aix-en-Provence Festivals and he is also well-known as a composer.



ANDRE CLUYTENS, who will make his American debut with the Vienna Philharmonic.

"DON JUAN" VIENNESE FILM AT LITTLE CARNEGIE. The New York fine arts cinema, the Little Carnegie, is currently showing the Austrian film "Don Juan". Although



CARL SCHURICHT, who makes his American conductorial debut with the Vienna Philharmonic this fall.

based on Mozart's opera "Don Giovanni," the new picture is not a filmed opera performance but rather a normal feature film. It represents the first successful, large-scale European effort to produce a film opera. The title role is played by many soloists of the Vienna State Opera as well as by the chorus and ballet of the same company. "Don Juan" was directed by the well-known and successful Austrian film specialist H.W. Kolm-Veltee. The film is being presented with English sub-titles.

GULDA AT CARNEGIE HALL ON MARCH 16. Friedrich Gulda, the well-known Austrian pianist, will arrive in New York shortly to begin a concert tour of the United States. During his stay in the country, Gulda will give only one New York concert, slated for Carnegie Hall on March 16, 1956. Gulda's concert will include works by Bach, Mozart, Ravel, Schubert and Schumann.

MODERN AUSTRIAN TAPESTRIES AT NATIONAL ARTS CLUB. An exhibition of modern tapestries by the Austrian Johanna Schildo and Fritz Riedel is now being held at the National Arts Club, 15 Gramercy Park, New York. The tapestries were previously displayed in other American cities, including Philadelphia and Boston, and everywhere met with an excellent reception. A noteworthy feature of these tapestries is that the artists not only prepare the designs but also do the weaving themselves.

WEIGL MEMORIAL CONCERTS IN U.S. AND AUSTRIA.

In honor of the 65th anniversary of the birth of the Austrian composer Karl Weigl (1881-1949), the Austrian Broadcasting System will present the world premiere of Weigl's "Apocalyptic Symphony." In celebration of the same event, Stations WQXR and WNYC in New York are presenting special Karl Weigl memorial programs. The National Association for American Composers and Conductors included chamber music by Weigl in its most recent program and his violin sonata was performed recently in Chicago. Brooklyn College also held a concert in commemoration of the composer and the Austrian Institute in New York is preparing a Bruckner-Mahler-Weigl Memorial Concert for April 26, 1956.

"KISS ME KATE" IN SUCCESSFUL VIENNA PREMIERE.

Cole Porter's "Kiss Me Kate," which recently had its Austrian premiere at the Volksoper, was a real hit with the Vienna public. Translated and adapted for the Volksoper by Dr. Marcel Prawy, the production was rehearsed and directed by Julius Rudel, the New York conductor, who came to Vienna especially for the premiere. Rudel earned the unanimous praise of the Viennese critics.

HUNT PRIZE AWARDED TO AUSTRIAN ENGINEER.

Otwin Cuscoleca, the Technical Director of the Austrian Alpine Montangesellschaft, was awarded this year's Robert W. Hunt Prize for a scientific article on the new blast steel process. He is the first Austrian engineer to be so honored. The award ceremony took place at the recent New York meeting of the "American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers," which includes in its membership over 24,000 engineers from all over the world.

CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH CANADA TO BE INTENSIFIED.

The Canadian-Austrian Society is making plans for a considerable extension of the cultural ties between Canada and Austria in the near future. The negotiations being carried on in this connection between the competent Austrian authorities and Canadian representatives in Vienna have been concerned primarily with stepping up the exchange of students between both countries and with intensifying relations between Canadian and Austrian universities. A member of the board of directors of the Canadian-Austrian society will leave for Canada shortly to deal with the matter on the spot.

ANGLO-AMERICAN WEEK IN AUSTRIA. The Vocational Education Division of the Ministry of Education recently organized an "Anglo-American Week" which was celebrated throughout Austria. Assistance in the preparations for the event was provided by the U.S. Embassy, the Canadian Legation and the British Council in Vienna. Among the units participating were all of the country's technological, commercial, trade and women's vocational schools. The purpose of this "Anglo-American Week" was to further solidify relations between Austria, on the one hand, and the United States, Canada and England, on the other. The week was observed by means of an extensive program of lectures, exhibitions, film showings and stage presentations.

INTENSIVE STUDENT EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES UNDER FULBRIGHT PROGRAM.

As in preceding years, the exchange of university and high school teachers and students between the United States and Austria under the Fulbright Program is being continued in the school year 1956-57. Thanks to this generous program, some 60 American and Austrian university students will have an opportunity to study in the universities of both countries in 1956. The program also provides for exchange between ten university professors and research specialists of each of the two countries. High school teachers are also participating in the exchange activities.

On the occasion of the visit to Austria of Dr. Rufus H. Fitzgerald, Chairman of the U.S. Commission on Educational Exchange, Austrian Minister of Education Drimmel called attention to the outstanding successes of the Fulbright Program in Austria and expressed thanks to the United States for its wonderful assistance in implementing the exchange program between the two countries. Since the fall of 1951, a total of 450 Austrian University professors, high school teachers and students have been exchanged with 350 American professors, teachers and students under the Fulbright Bill.

WILDER PLAY SCORES CRITICAL ACCLAIM IN GRAZ.

The recent performance of Thornton Wilder's "The Matchmaker" at the Styrian Provincial Theater in Graz was a great success. Translated by Hans Sahl under the title "Die Heiratsvermittlerin," the Graz production was directed by Harald Benesch.

1956 VIENNA FESTIVAL TO FEATURE MOZART WORKS.

The Vienna Festival of 1956, whose musical program is inspired by the Mozart bicentenary celebrations, is organizing an International Mozart Festival which will include the appearance of famous foreign orchestras in Vienna. The official opening concert, with the Vienna Philharmonic, will be conducted by Dr. Karl Boehm. The soloist will be Elisabeth Schwarzkopf. On the same day, there will be a performance of Haydn's "The Creation," with the Vienna Symphony Orchestra under Rudolf Moralt and with Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, Anton Dermota, Walter Berry and Josef Greindl as soloists. On June 4 there will be an all-Mozart concert by the Vienna Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Enrico Mainardi with Wolfgang Schneiderhan and Irmgard Seefried as soloists. The Berlin Philharmonic, conducted by Herbert Karajan, will make appearances on June 5 and 6, with concerts of Mozart, Wagner and Beethoven, and on June 7, with a program of Mozart, Richard Strauss and Brahms. On June 8, the Amsterdam Concertgebouw Orchestra under Eduard van Beinum, will play Bruckner's Eighth Symphony and Mozart's D Major Violin Concerto, performed by Yehudi Menuhin. The following day, the same orchestra will perform works by Haydn, Mozart, Stravinsky and Ravel. Lastly, on June 10, there is to be a concert performance of Gluck's "Iphigenia," directed by Joseph Keilberth and featuring Hilde Zadek, Hermann Prey, Marcel Cordes and Rudolf Schock as soloists.

COPY OF MOZART PIANO FOR SALZBURG CONCERTS.

The original piano belonging to Mozart, now on display in the room where the composer was born (in the house on Salzburg's Getreidegasse), is hardly suitable for concert performances. However, in order that visitors to Salzburg may have an opportunity to hear Mozart's piano and chamber music in unique surroundings and also to hear them as they originally sounded in Mozart's time, the Mozarteum Foundation is considering the idea of having a copy of this piano made. At the present time, only four copies of the piano are extant: one in Zurich (Faber Castell), one in Nuremberg (Dr. Rueck), one in New York (Eppstein) and one in Basel. There is only one specialist — a very old man who for decades has taken care of the old instruments in the Mozarteum and the Salzburg Municipal Museum — who could be considered for such a project. Construction of a copy of the piano would require at least one year.

EXHIBITION OF MOZART MEDALLIONS IN VIENNA.

The Coin Room of the History of Art Museum in Vienna, in honor of the bicentenary of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, has organized an interesting exhibit of medallions and coins which were either struck in honor of the composer or on which his portrait was used as a decorative subject. Among other things, the collection includes the famous portrait medallion of Mozart which was modeled from life around 1790 by Leonhard Posch. Among the coins are the two-schilling piece of 1931 and the new 25-schilling piece of 1956, which also feature portraits of the composer.

FILM ON MOZART TO BE SHOWN AT CANNES. The new Austrian technicolor film, "Mozart," produced by the Cosmopol Film Company, has been chosen by the selection committee as the motion picture which will represent Austria at this year's International Film Festival in Cannes.

SCALA TO VISIT VIENNA. Under an agreement recently signed between Milan's La Scala Opera Company and the Vienna State Opera, an ensemble from La Scala will give a series of performances in Vienna from June 4-9, 1956, during that city's annual Festival. The schedule includes two performances each of Bizet's "Carmen" and Verdi's "Rigoletto" and "La Traviata." The lead roles will be sung by members of the Milan company and the performances will be directed by two conductors from that city. The chorus and orchestra will be provided by the Volksoper. Among the soloists who will be heard are Virginia Zeanni, soprano, Carlo Taglibue, baritone, and Mario de Monaco, tenor.

KEEN FOREIGN PRESS INTEREST IN SALZBURG FESTIVAL. In its final report on the 1956 Mozart Festival Week, the press office of the Salzburg Festival offered the welcome announcement that the interest of foreign newspapers in the Festival had exceeded all expectations. Between January 21-30, a total of 146 press representatives visited the Mozart city. Of these, 115 were contributors to newspapers and magazines, 11 were news agency reporters and 20 were radio and television commentators. They represent a total of 216 different editorial offices in 25 countries.

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